



St. James St. Mary of Mount Carmel Parishes

453 S. Main St. P.O. Box 280
Amherst, WI 54406
(715) 824-3455

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
8:30AM—1:00PM

Parish Website: sjsmmc.com

Fr. Jerzy Rebacz; Pastor | Deacon Art Schaller



August 16, 2026

Mission Statement

We, the stewards of St. James and St. Mary of Mount Carmel Parishes in the Diocese of La Crosse, strive to live as disciples of Christ.

Vision Statement

As Parishioners of St. James and St. Mary of Mount Carmel Parishes, we are called as stewards to celebrate the presence of Christ in our life as we worship together in prayer, in liturgy and in the Sacraments.

We endeavor to strengthen our Catholic faith and Christian service as individuals, as families, and as a parish community as we seek to spread the teachings of Christ through our words, through our witness, and through our actions.

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

Tuesday, August 18th 8:15AM @ SJ
+Donna Dombrowski & +Patrick Kowalchuk

Wednesday, August 19th 8:15AM @ SM
+Richard Rzentkowski

Thursday, August 20th 8:15AM @ SM
+Gregory Stanke

Friday, August 21st 8:15AM @ SJ
Living & Deceased Members of the Loecher Family

Saturday, August 22nd 4:00PM @ SJ
+Ray & MaryAnn Repinski

Sunday, August 23rd
8:30AM @ SJ +Darryl Jastromski
10:30AM @ SM Parishioners of our Two Parishes

PRAYER FOR

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Father in heaven,
all creation rightly gives you praise,
for all life and all holiness come from you.
In the plan of your wisdom
she who bore the Christ in her womb was raised body
and soul in glory to be with him in heaven.
May we follow her example in reflecting your holiness
and join in her hymn of endless love and praise.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Exposition and Benediction Schedule

The First Thursday and the First Friday of every month following the morning Mass.

Confession Schedule

After weekday Masses*

Saturday at 3:30 PM at St James

Sunday after 10:30 AM Mass* at St Mary

*Kindly leave a note in the sacristy if you need Father to hear your confession after Mass-no names needed.



Faith Step

*"O woman, great is your faith!
Let it be done for you as you wish."*

Matthew 15:28

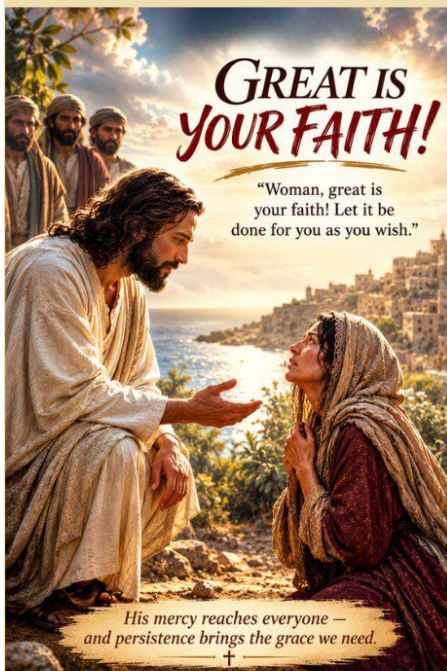
In Sunday's Gospel for Matthew 15:21-28, Jesus' words to the Canaanite woman may seem difficult: *"It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs."*

Yet the woman does not become angry or turn away. With humility and great faith, she answers, *"Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters."*

Her response shows that she understands something deeply important: even the smallest gift of Jesus' mercy is more than enough. She does not demand anything from Him. She simply trusts in His goodness and refuses to give up. Jesus recognizes the depth of her faith and grants her request.

Her persistence reminds us that prayer is not always about receiving the answer we want immediately. Sometimes God uses our waiting to deepen our faith and teach us to trust Him more completely. Jesus sees the faith in our hearts, even when we struggle to understand His ways.

When we bring our worries, hopes, and loved ones to Jesus, may we pray with the same faith and perseverance:
"Lord, help me."



Keep praying, even when the answer seems delayed.

Like the Canaanite woman, bring your needs to Jesus with a trusting and persistent heart.

Faith means believing that God hears us, even when His answer does not come in the way or timing we expect.

Men—Are you feeling called to serve the Church in deeper ways? Bishop Battersby invites men throughout the Diocese of La Crosse to prayerfully discern a call to serve the Church as a Permanent Deacons. A Discernment Retreat will be held November 6-7, 2026. For more information, contact Deacon Bob Riedl, Director of the Office of the Diaconate, at riedl@diocclergy.org or (608)791-2665.



St James

Week Ending August 9, 2026

Received \$5,374
Budget \$3,462
\$1,912

	Month of July 2026	Month of July 2025
Received	\$12,703	\$14,624
Budget	<u>\$15,000</u>	
	(\$2,298)	\$14,624

St Mary of Mount Carmel

Week Ending August 9, 2026

Received \$4,226
Budget \$3,923
\$303

	Month of July 2026	Month of July 2025
Received	\$11,612	\$14,669
Budget	<u>\$17,000</u>	
	(\$5,389)	\$14,669

SMMC Scrip Update

Scrip is on sale this weekend! But—you can also purchase cards at anytime by calling Pat Zielinski at (715) 824-3762.

St. James Scrip Update

Scrip is on sale this weekend! Our next sale dates are Saturday, August 29th and Sunday, August 30th. Contact Hydrie Laidlaw at (715) 347-3544 or stop by the parish office to purchase cards during the week.

It takes just a few minutes to stop by the scrip table before or after Mass to purchase gift cards. If you plan on doing any shopping or gifting—why not buy your cards from Pat or Hydrie? It's convenient and costs you nothing extra.



If you, or someone you know is homebound and is unable to attend Mass or receive the Sacraments, please either contact the Parish Office or one of the members of our Homebound Ministry listed below. We will be happy to make arrangements for Holy Communion, Anointing of the Sick, or simply a visit.

Homebound Ministry

Sandy Trzebiatowski... (715) 630-6308
Julie Glodowski..... (715) 340-0004
Jodi Glodowski (715) 630-6827
Barb Groholski (715) 824-3649





Faith Formation

Classes begin in 3 weeks! Parents—if you haven't registered your children yet, kindly do so now. You can find and download all of the necessary registration forms and class schedules from our parish website www.sjsmmc.com/ccd. The registration fee for parishioners is \$75/child (\$150 max per family). The registration fee for non-parishioners is \$150/child.



Volunteers needed. There is still a need for teaching the Chosen program to Grades 9 & 10. Consider co-teaching with a friend or spouse. Additional room aids for the other grades are also needed and welcomed.

If interested in learning more about the program, please contact Michelle at sjsmdre@gmail.com.



Save the Date: Saturday, October 10th

It's Back! Taste of Our Heritage

Do you enjoy cooking or baking or both?

Do you prepare favorite ethnic foods such as pierogi, tamales, schnitzel, gyros, eggrolls, lefse, rosettes, etc.?

We need your help to add flavor to our 2nd Annual "Taste of our Heritage" event sponsored by our parishes. You would make and serve one ethnic dish/item at our event.

**You are invited to a very brief meeting
next Sunday, August 23rd**
after the 8:30am Mass at St. James or
after the 10:30am Mass at SMMC.



The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted on the apple tray, "Take only one. God is watching." Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. One child whispered to another, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."



The Story of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

On November 1, 1950, Pope Pius XII defined the Assumption of Mary to be a dogma of faith: *"We pronounce, declare and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma that the immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul to heavenly glory."*

The pope proclaimed this dogma only after a broad consultation of bishops, theologians and laity. There were few dissenting voices. What the pope solemnly declared was already a common belief in the Catholic Church. We find homilies on the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary going back to the sixth century.

In following centuries, the Eastern Churches held steadily to the doctrine, but some authors in the West were hesitant. However by the 13th century there was universal agreement.

The feast was celebrated under various names—Commemoration, Dormition, Passing, Assumption—from at least the fifth or sixth century. Today it is celebrated as a solemnity.

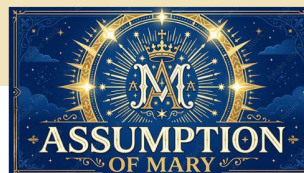
In 1 Corinthians 15:20, Paul speaks of Christ's resurrection as the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. Since Mary is closely associated with all the mysteries of Jesus' life, it is not surprising that the Holy Spirit has led the Church to believe in Mary's share in his glorification. So close was she to Jesus on earth, she must be with him body and soul in heaven.

The Assumption of Mary teaches us that God has a plan for every one of us and that it can be fulfilled without a doubt.

The woman whom He chose to conceive and bear His Son Jesus was prepared for this exalted vocation by her being conceived immaculately and fully graced to fulfill this call. This woman Mary, who gave birth to the Eternal Word made flesh, has been taken up to the heavenly realms following her Son who ascended there.

All this is in accord with God's plan for our salvation. What happened to the Blessed Virgin shows us what God intends for us. We who are pilgrims on the earth are given God's grace so that we may have His divine life in us by virtue of Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection.

We are destined to follow Mary, who was assumed into heaven, so that we may take our place in God's Presence forever.



Mother Mary, assumed into Heaven, pray for us who have recourse to thee. Jesus, I trust in You. Amen

Job Posting. School Custodian. St. Stephen Parish in Stevens Point is in need of a motivated individual to aid in the upkeep of the school building. This part-time position would be Monday through Friday, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. when school is in session, with flexible hours when school is not. For information, please call the parish office at 715-341-1617 ext. 101 or visit www.PointCatholicFaith.org/jobs

Job Posting. St Adalbert parish is now accepting applications for Part-Time Office Associate to work in the Parish/School office. Job duties include secretarial skills, church bulletin editing, website updating, and communication skills with parishioners, school families, and the general public. Previous experience desired, but not required. (715) 677-4519. Apply by September 17th.

St. Bronislava Belltower Bash. August 29th-30th. We look forward to seeing you at the Belltower Bash for a Classic Cookout, Mexican Food, Bake Sale, cake Walk, Bingo, Main Raffle, Live Music and more!

Mass of Hope and Healing | Sep 8 | Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman:

Bishop Gerard Battersby will celebrate a Mass of Hope and Healing on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 6:30 pm, at the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman, 530 Main St, La Crosse. This Mass will be offered for anyone grieving the loss of children through miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, abortion, stillbirth, accident or infant death. A candle ceremony will take place at 6:30, prior to the beginning of Mass. Please arrive early to receive your votive candle(s) in remembrance of any child(ren) lost. Candles will be lit and grieving families will carry them forward to surrender to a priest. After Mass, refreshments will be served and volunteers will be present to offer assistance, support, and comfort. We welcome all who mourn, and encourage anyone to come and be supportive.

Rural Life Day Sept. 23, 2026 - Creamery Creek Farms in Bangor

Join us for the 45th Annual Rural Life Day Celebration at Creamery Creek, hosted by the John and Donna Hansen family and the Justin and Louisa Peterson family. Rural Life Day is a beautiful event that brings together several hundred members of the faithful to honor rural life in our communities. Our celebration begins with Mass at 10:00 AM, celebrated by Bishop Gerard Battersby, together with many priests and deacons of the diocese. This is followed by special awards and the blessing of crops, animals, and machinery of the farm. We conclude our celebration with a delicious lunch and a freewill offering to benefit Project Milk. Creamery Creek is located at W1250 County Road U, Bangor, WI 54614.

GIVEN: Unveiling the Mysteries of Marriage One Day Retreat. Saturday Oct 17, 2026 from 8AM-2:30PM at St. Joseph Parish, Stevens Point. *"God destined us to experience communion with our spouse as an expression of our communion with him. This is what we vowed when we married and what it means to be devoted."* (Schuchts 171). All ages and stages of married, engaged, and dating couples are encouraged to attend. More information and registration information at <https://tinyurl.com/5n99zzhk>

Anointing of the Sick

If you or a loved one is in need of the Anointing Sacrament, especially before a hospital stay or procedure, please contact the parish office. Keep in mind that hospitals do not automatically notify the parish or priest.

Marriage

Couples requesting the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage should contact the office at the time of engagement, at least six months prior to the anticipated date of marriage. If a couple wishes to be married as a registered parish member, they must actively participate in the faith (Sunday worship) and be a registered member of our parish at least 3 months prior to requesting the Sacrament of Marriage. Weddings are not celebrated during Lent.

Baptism

Parents may request the baptism of their infant at least two months prior to the anticipated date of baptism. Family should be members of our parish, they must actively participate in the faith (Sunday worship) and be a registered member of our parish. To request baptism, please call the parish office at (715) 824-3455.

Parish Staff

Office

Veronica Bruske(715) 824-3455
catholiccentral54406@gmail.com

Parish Life Administrator

Ann Hemmy.....sjsmparishlife@gmail.com

DRE

Michelle Shulfer.....sjsmdre@gmail.com

Bulletin.....bulletininfo06@gmail.com

Please send your bulletin requests via email by 4:30pm Tuesday.

Church Councils

Pastoral Council

Jill Benjamin (SJ)
Mike Juris (SJ)
Bob Schilling (SJ)
Michelle Shulfer (SJ)
Christine Thompson (SJ)
Sarah Eron (SM)
Julie Glodowski (SM)
Jenny Konkol (SM)
Justen Pacocha (SM)
Karen Piesik (SM)
Carol Rudiger (SM)

Finance Council

Pat Kwiatkowski (SJ)
Sandy Trzebiatowski (SJ)

Mark Doll (SM)
Gilbert Patoka (SM)

Committees Chairperson and Co-chairs

Family Life....Laura Gould

Sacred Worship....Judi Marquard | Barb Groholski

Social Concerns... Pat Zielinski | Laura Trzebiatowski-Przekurat

Homebound Ministry

Sandy Trzebiatowski...(715) 630-6308
Julie Glodowski..... (715) 340-0004
Jodi Glodowski (715) 630-6827
Barb Groholski (715) 824-3649



GriefShare Ministry

Cindi(715) 570-0755
Shawn.. (715) 570-5082



United Prayers to Heaven Prayer Chain

Laurie.....plhintz5@gmail.com
Darlene.....(715) 592-4443
Barb.....(715) 824-3649